

MU SHI SHI

5

YUKI URUSHIBARA

WINNER OF THE KODANSHA MANGA OF THE YEAR AWARD!

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URUSHIBARA

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MU SHI SHI 5

Yuki Urushibara

Translated and adapted by
William Flanagan

Lettered by
North Market Street Graphics



Ballantine Books • New York

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Mushishi volume 5 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

A Del Rey Manga/Kodansha Trade Paperback Original

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Published in the United States by Del Rey Books, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc., New York

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Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2004 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

ISBN: 978-0-345-50138-7

Printed in the United States of America

www.delreymanga.com

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the *Del Rey Manga* books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in *Del Rey Manga*.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ma., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "dono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.
- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

虫

し

師

Mushishi

5

Yuki Urushibara

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Beko: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Sempai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kelak: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

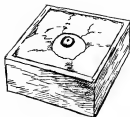
Ona-san/

Oni-san: Normally older siblings are not called by name but rather by the title of older sister (Ona-san) or older brother (Oni-san). Depending on the relationship, -chan or -sama can also be used instead of -san. However, this honorific can also be used with someone unrelated when the relationship resembles that of siblings.

Obaa-san/

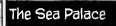
Oji-san: Japanese grandparents are called by their titles rather than by name. Grandmothers are called Obaa-san (or Obaa-sama to imply added respect and distance, or Obaa-chan for more intimacy). Likewise grandfathers are called Oji-san, Oji-sama, or Oji-chan.

-(blank): This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



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The Sea Palace



MOEHER!

...familiar
with
those
kind of
things?

Are
you...

Yeah, you
could say
that.

It's what
I do for a
living.

You can
come with
us if you
like.

A lot of
snakes
come out
at night.

Grandpa
is back!

Good
evening.

Ah!
You're
from
this
after-
noon.

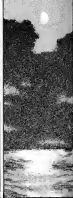
It's a
mystery...
...to me
also.

Huh?
You can
see it,
too?

What do
you think
that light
is?

It's too
big to
be sea
Fireflies.

And too
small to
be the
lights of
fishermen.





You don't
notice...



Does
Hana
look...

...like a
normal
child to
you?



Below
the
rock...

...is a
trench they
call the
Dragon's
Palace.



That
light.

It always
appears
near that
rock.



Do
you...

...know
some-
thing
about
it?



That
girl...

...is the
"reborn"
form of my
mother.



No...



Ginko-
san...



...are "born
again,"
looking
exactly the
same as
before.

People
who lose
their lives
there...





...looking exactly the same as the one who drowned in the sea during the same month.

It doesn't matter which one.

Yes...

...if you can conceive, then the child will be born...



Just one will be enough.



.....



All right.



Life's been hard, but that's why you should do it!

If you have a child, it will give you the heart to face your hardships.

You're... had your husband and mother die one right after the other.



You're the only one I can ask!

Mio!

Please!



Promise me you won't call her Mio.

But the child will not be Mother.



If the way the child looks will bring some solace to everyone's heart...

...then I'll do it.





They say that I'm my grandmother reborn.



Yeah...

You're right. There isn't.



...he was bitten by a snake and was about to die, so they had him reborn.

When he was about six...



But there are lots of kids like that.

Ah!

That boy over there is one, too!



That woman over there is the same.



And then...

...before I know it, I'm sleeping.



I imagine that I'm slowly sinking down...

And I swim through the deep, blue sea.

I pretend I'm a huge fish!



It's nothing.



Mother!

What's wrong...?



Go to sleep, Isana.

There's nothing to worry about.



Every-
body..

... is living
happily
after being
reborn.



Her husband
waited for
ten years
before they
had a new
ceremony.

Right after
she got
married a
shark got
at her, and
she was
reborn.



It wouldn't
be safe to
dive at night
without
some kind
of light.

I guess I'll
just have to
wait until the
full moon when
the "birth eggs"
come out.



I can't
see any-
thing.



Yeah.

So you'll
be here until
then?



When
they call me
Mana..

... it
bothers
me a
little.



Are you
happy?

...
You
too.. P



I'm happy
that I was
born to
Mother!

Because I
love the sea,
this island,
everything to
do with this
place!



But
that's
nothing,
really.

Mother
never
calls me
that,
so..



But...



I never knew
my mother
when she was
a child, so I
couldn't tell.



When
she was
a baby, I
thought
so, too.

You're
saying she
just hap-
pens to
look like my
mother...?



...her
face has
begun to
change.

But
as she
grows
up...



...they're
getting closer
and closer to
the mother I
knew.

Her
personality...

...her tiny habits,
everything...



Wow!

Look
how
pretty!

Wow!



And if
that's true,
then this
place...

...really is
paradise.

Where if
they wish it,
they never
have to be
parted.

An
island...

...where
people can
bring back
their dead
loved ones.



...is now
caring me
Mother!

But
someone
with the
same face...

My
mother
and I
should
be parted
forever.



...but it's
hard to think
of her as my
daughter.

She's the
daughter I
gave birth to
and raised...



It's
coming
from the
bottom
of the
"Dragon's
Palace."











I swim
by the coral
reef...

...and go
with my
remora
fish...

...sinking
slowly
to some
deep, dark
place...



But I
know one
good way
to fix it...

Of course
there are!



When
I can't
sleep...

...I
imagine
I'm a big
fish!

And that I'm
swimming
deep in the
sea...



Mother?



It's
just...

I'm
sorry...



And
before I
know it...



Look
at this...

...we'd
better see
how this
weather
develops.



It's
gotten
worse,
huh?



We
might be
in for a
typhoon.

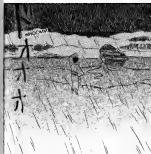


Oh?

There are
times
when you
can't
sleep?



No
helping
it, I
guess.





Right...

Be careful
as you get
close!



Don't
just
rush into
danger!



Mother!
Over
here...!



How
do we...

It's sur-
rounded
her boat.



There
she
is!



Wait,
/sana/!

Don't go
near that
light!

It'll eat
you up!







That's
sounds
like...

RV

Everything
starts over...
and what
happened
before...

...born
again from
some new
mother...

I wonder
if I'll come
back...

...I'm
going to
kill me.



But...
this keeps
going on...

...I can't...

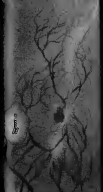


...to beat
this thing.

...even
hope...



...I can't...







...far
into the
future,
will
probably
keep...

...their
practice
of being
"born
again."

This
Island...

...one of the
survivors
makes up
for the loss
inside her
womb.

To
console
them
when at
the death
of a loved
one.

I know
someone
else who
feels just the
same!

After
all...

...you're
your
mother's
kid.

Bonus Manga

A Tale of Quite a Long Time Ago

Sounds in the Mountain Chapter

And the dead, unaware of what they're doing...



One day, her father was helping out on a neighbor's farm.



...her father told her about something that happened.



About the time when my grandmother was in her late teens...

...came a "doocoo" from the direction of a faraway mountain. And the sound of a windmill.

When suddenly...



It looked as though she was bringing food to a young girl who was sick and quarantined in a small house at the edge of the rice paddies. 4



At that time, a old lady neighbor was passing on a road between the field and the mountain.

...might have won a hard-to-find happiness.



And it's
plenty.

That's
everything.

...scent,
sound,
taste,
and what
I feel.

What I
know of
my world
comes
from...

There's
something
in my eyes.

What is
that?

I'm sure it must have
been frightening,
but if it was the
mountain's voice, I'd
love to have heard
it...I think.

I wonder
what kind of
sound it was.

She
wandered
around as
though she
had lost her
mind.

On the way
back, she
started
beating the
plants in the
middle of the
paddy.

Something called
"Atago-sana"
was worshipped
on that mountain.
My grandmother
used to know what
it was.

Everyone
said that the
sound was its
voice risen in
anger.

Even
afterward,
she'd climb
onto the
crossbeam
of her
family's
house.

They said
she stopped
being a
normal
person.



Eye's Fortune, Eye's Misfortune



Looking up,
he saw that
the ceiling
was covered
with some-
thing that
looked like
black hair.



And he
pointed to
the ceiling.

And when he
did, the man
led him into
the inner
most chamber
of the house.



CLINK
チリン



step
step
step



...
Huh?

Night
after
night, the
black hair
would
drop on him.

It would
enter one's
nose, and
the victim
could not
sleep.

I
was

She's
talking
...about
a type
of music?



well..

When I
finally
reached
the high-
way?



what you
just said...
where did
you hear
about it?



CLUNK



CLUNK
カクカク





Genfuku means Eye Fortune.







They
were left
intact.

And even
after he
died, his
eyes didn't
rot.



SHUN

Don't
worry!

It was
taken after
he died.

He saw the
Ganfuku,
and for a
number of
years until
his death...
...his eyes got
better and
better.



?!
ZUM



...
Hm?



His may be
a vital clue
to finding
Ganfuku!



pip
pip



...
Father?

HAN
KON



So
just...

...wait
a little
longer,
huh?



None...

I'm willing to
spend my life
so that you
can see!



This was the first time I understood what it means to see.

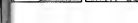
Father!



It was...

...something that I couldn't even dream of before that moment.







Sights
of places
I don't
know.



...and
over the
mountain
range
beyond
that...



Beyond
the hill
that
blocked
our
view..



But...



...eventually, I
couldn't see
straight, and
I'd get dizzy.



I watched
transfixed
at the way
people live.



I could
view all
sorts of
sights just
sitting in
my room.



...far, far
away, all
the way to
the sea.



Oh, nothing.

...



Hen?



It seemed as though when I closed my eyes, I could see the past or future of those close to me.

...people started coming to me, asking me to look into their future.

And with time...



Oh, oh, oh! The wind came up suddenly.

Are you all right?



That's the thing I saw...?



I found myself...



...constantly closing my eyes.



The only time my life seemed to be in order...

...was when I had my eyes closed and everything was dark.



...I began to see other things.



...as I kept doing that and time passed...

However...



Look out!!

?!?







...at the
bottom
of a
valley...

...I found
my father's
body.

Every day
I'd go up the
mountain and use
my clairvoyance
to find my father.



...Finally,
one day...

But...

...Father
never came
back again.



And...

In mourning...

...I'd play the
biwa and tell
stories that I
heard from my
father.

And to
make a little
bit of traveling
money...



...I
left on a
journey.



Amare?

I'm
sitting
out now.



My
eyelids
are
fading,
and I
can see
outside.



Amare?



It's all
right. It'll
clear up
soon.

That's
odd...



What's
wrong?

I can
see your
future,
Father...

...and the
outside at the
same
time, and it's
making me
dizzy.



Okay.

Don't
overwork
yourself.

I'll be
back in
three days.



But even that...

I saw that you'd come here, too.

...has finally come into view.



My own future.



...and ditch it in a mountain somewhere?



Everything, I've seen it all.

I saw that I had to ask that favor of you.



...I'm to gauge out your clairvoyance...

So...



I followed the roads to the highway.

And I made my life as a traveling musician.



Finally...

...when I arrived at my father's grave site...

...I realized that I didn't want to return to a home without my father in it.



But there's one thing...

...that I couldn't see.



There isn't anything in this world that I can't see.

In the daylight, I find it difficult even to stand up, I get so dizzy.



—
You're saying that...

...you've seen...all of this?



So since someone like me can't go...

...I'd like you to bury my eyes deep in the mountains.



These eyes have...once given me great joy.

And have been with me through many hard times.



If a person could simply do that...

...I would have done it myself long ago.

What my eyes can see...



It's not impossible that some cure is out there.

I don't get it. I could see it if you wanted me to fix your eyes.



...is far beyond the hands of man.

It is unavoidable fate.



Remember that I said nothing can change the future that I see.



...soon they won't be my eyes anymore.

But...



...and return to the ground to await a new set of eyes to come.

My sight, along with the Genfuku...

...will leave my eyes.





Yes, I'm afraid.



...afraid of losing the light forever?

Are'n't you...



which one do you think is best?

In the dark, I can live freely.



I can see every-thing...
...and yet I can change nothing that I see.

Buk...



...the world of nothing but light is also frightening



...and then the moon came out.

I was walking with my hands out in front of me...

I couldn't see anything.



...only for another moon to rise.

It was pure white, and like some fake moon, it sank...



I walked there for a long time.



I vividly remember how horrible I was to see the sunlight.



At one point, the sun finally rose and I left the place.



For me...

...I can remember the light even when I'm in the dark.

I think blind but still alive isn't a bad option





Even if the body dies, the mushi in the eyes lives on, only to merge with some new creature.

And what she sees allows her eyes to house a mushi.

Through her eyes...



...she has slowly become other people.

Then it leaves the body...

Eventually, it takes over.



The answer to my letter...
...here yet.



...the time is close when it should separate.



How much...

...did you see just now?



I only saw it happening

It's all right.



Her eyes...

...have been looking only through her eyelids for a long time now.



I saw...

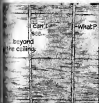
...the last moment of life for these eyes.



...she has seen through her eyelids and witnessed my future.

And...

She's only been seeing the future of other people.



ざん





...did you
see just
now?

How
much...



How
much...



Eventually
a face came
up from the
ground.

Some
animal
looked its
way.



After
the eyes fell
from me...

...they
were buried
beneath
the earth.



And
suddenly
there was a
beautiful flower
reflected in the
beast's eyes.



...the last
moment
of life
for these
eyes.



Even
without
eyes...

...we
can still
cry,
can't we?





Sey...
I guess I must
no care about that.



Sey...



Sey...

... your
reply
should
have come
by now.



Sey...



I'd like to
try to make
my way
alone as I
am.

I'm just
happy that
I don't see
the future.



You're
going back
to your
home town?

Am.
Probably
not.



And slowly,
it got itself
swallowed up
inside those
eyes.

... went
dark.

... everything...

And
then...



What
is it this
time?



You're just
in time. I've
got some-
thing fasci-
nating!



There's a
person...

...who is
cooking
every now and
again on the
mountains.



This
kitchen
stinks
coo!

Oh! A
pretty
impressive
living on
the inside.



It's made
by a genius
artist who be-
came famous
a decade or so
ago.



If you
happen
to see me
on the
road, let
me know
you're
there.

So
I'll be
off.



I'll be
much
better on
the bwa
by then.





Well, they say that's what it looks like.



When you look every once in a while...



something white and smoky comes out of the picture and winds its way up the mountain.

Just as Y...

...smoke were wafting from the chimney of someone's home.



The Coat That Holds a Mountain



There are
all those
columns
of smoke!



There's
nobody who
lives any far-
ther up the
mountain
than this.





Sis...

What's this?



...so I made it the best I could.

I wanted to be sure that it was nice enough to wear in front of that master artist...



And I dyed it with colors from the mountain's groves and trees.

It's made from the cocoons of the mountain's silkworms.

Just like...

Back then it was like...

...the whole village...

...was wrapped up in a nice, warm coat.



Okay!

You'd better go home and start boiling the rice, or I won't be able to eat.



Gods don't get hungry!

Then they're building fires for their bellies.

Hey! You two!



Then and now...

...the mountain looks exactly the same, but...

...it isn't the same as it was then.



Back then...

Let's go!

...there was something strange about the mountain.









I wouldn't expect anything less from a master's studio.

This is a wonderful painting.



I like it.

Hm...



And to think, the painter (was) famous y'!



It's also a good chance to gain some fame for yourself!

Yes, please!

I'd love to do it!



What do you think?

I know it's sudden, but can you make another by next month?

It's my grandson's wedding.



Right? Just give it to me!

The deadline for my work is coming up pretty soon...



How is it coming?

Master...



The thing's almost worn out.

I won't be able to give you much for it.



I don't have anyone to borrow money from...

Maybe I can sell something...

So now, what do I do?



I'll buy it back in no time at all!



I promise you that it'll be worth a lot in the future!

Please, just give me a little bit better price!







But...



You look tired.

You should take some medicine and rest.



You've made your name. You won't lose your popularity.

You don't have to worry any more.



...gave off a feeling of brimming with life, but...

To my eyes, your earlier work...



But...

...are you feeling ill or something?



I tend to read too much into situations. I'm sure you're all right.

No...



If you drink this, you'll feel better.



Kai...

How do you feel...?



Damn it!

What's going on with me?





And if
I go
home...



What am
I feeling
nervous
for?

I'm
family,
after all!



...I'll find
inspiration
to make
good
paintings
again.



She's
probably
just fine,
but...

How many
years has it
been since
she left
home to get
married...?



She...



I want to
see their
faces.



It's
been...

...more than
ten years
since then.



Father...

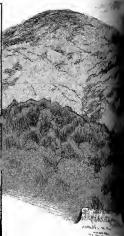
I wonder if
he's forgiven
me for
leaving?



The only
time it's
convenient.

These are
the only
times that
I try to
remember.





What do you think? That's enough to work with, right?

For half your price.

How about I have you track down the mushi, then I can sell it for a good price!

I don't need any dangerous mushi right now.

Wait a sec- and!

Come on! You bought it for the price of normal used clothes, didn't you?

I have one more piece of information.

This mountain is the home of the artist.

Yeah. All right.

I doubt any mushi would risk that for any amount of money.

Wait! Okay!

What do you think?

The fabric's pretty thin, but it's unusually heavy.

There are certainly signs of mushi.

So even this painting can probably find a buyer.

Hmm?

PSY

How about this for a price?

Well! That means I can sell it to that doctor who collects rare items!

Hmm...

Blood joke.

I'll take it for half that price.

It isn't safe. You can't ask too high a price for it.

It's hasn't suffered much damage from wear, but, since I don't know which mushi it is...





Today too...

...the mountain doesn't even look familiar.



It's like...

...I started to live in a new land altogether.



What's this?



The people of the town...

...treat me like a complete outsider.



But...

...you really should come back to town.

That's really... terrible for you.



...can't go back.



Even when I pick up a brush...

...nothing comes to mind to draw.



You see, L...

...can't draw anymore.







That's it!



Hm...



...is back
to the way
it was.

The
mountain.



What
could
it...

That
smoke...



It's back!



Ah!





P!



So...

When I finally got myself out of the earth...

...all signs of mushi in the short coat had gone.

What is this?

I think I'm...



Really?

That must be awful for you.



...I was trying to find out about the mushi living in the short coat.

So I went looking for the mountain pictured in the painting.

So...



Something odd happened.

But...

...the moment I set foot on the mountain...



That's my... short coat!!



My pack is getting heavier and heavier.



THANK



What's this?



Ubusuna can't live in any other type of earth, so they all gathered here.

There must have been a huge amount of them living here.



Yeah...

This cloth was made with materials found here, right?



After I left home...

It's...
...a part of the mountain itself.

...I'd wear the coat, and all the smells and sounds of the mountain would come back to me.



My sister...

...made it with thread and dye found right on this mountain.



When I arrived at the place where they wound up...

they attracted the mushi in the short coat.



...was probably Ubusuna from this area.

What was in your short coat...



Young Mushu is there?

Well...

...I was prepared to give up on it anyway.



I heard that there was a big landslide here.



Ubu... suna... P



At that time...

...a lot of Ubusuna were caught up in the land flow.



They're a mud-type mushi that's native to the ground of certain locations.

When they come to the surface, they look like a column of smoke.

But that's only when they are within the ground.



That is, until they come back to the land of their birth.







Flames of the Fields



whoa!
That's a
master
for you!

it's
the
hill!

Draw
some
more!

Fine!
I will!

That's right,
Toyo! The
mountain.



Set the bonfires blazing.
Night is coming.

Light the lamps.
The Darkness is coming.

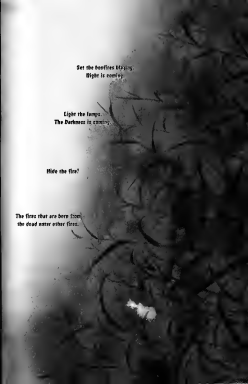


That
flame...



Hide the fire?

The fires that are born from
the dead enter other fires.





This is...
...my reward, huh?

Should I have...

...done as he said...?



That man...



...wrong about this? Was I...

You mustn't warm yourself with that fire...!



Everyone, no...!



GA-KAH



She's over in the fields with Dad and the others.

I've never seen this grass before, but it's growing all over.

And the trees on the mountain are all drying up.

It's you two!

So that decides it.

We'll have to split up and chop down all the trees surrounding the village.

Yeah...

Nohagi!

It looks like this is the place.

Is there a mushishi living in this village?

Maybe he's talking about Nohagi?

Mushi-shi?

Yo!





...any reason to research it anymore.

There isn't...



I thought you said it was all over.

Not finished?



...to burn everything on the mountain.

Tomorrow we plan...



You're going to burn the mountain?

Yes.

Why? It's just the grass that's bad, right?



Eh??



It hasn't been finished, but...



Thank you for that.



Would you mind if I need it?

Then your research into this mushi must be spectacular.



I've read quite a few of your research reports.

I never figured you to be such a young woman.



I thought I'd heard the name Nohegi before.



Don't move.

Ow!



...no matter how much we cut it or pulled it out, it would all soon grow back...

And...

...I didn't give it a second thought.

But at the time...



It rained for three days, and when it let up, I've went back to the field.

After that, it rained.



...as if it wasn't connected at the roots.

...was totally covered with that grass.

All of the ground we had just cleared...



All of the greenery around began to dry up.

The grass had spread its poison like a flower spreads its seeds.



By the time I realized it was something unusual, it was too late.

...we unearthed a huge black rock.

And when we did...

G A T C H



We were trying to clear some land in a field for farming.

Everyone was there breaking ground.



...and left it in a corner of the field.

We unearthed it the same way we always do...



We're pretty close to some volcanoes, so we find a lot of volcanic rock.



...we noticed a stalk of grass growing from a crack in the rock.

The next day...





That makes it all the more important!



Their lives are depending on this!



You'll regret it if you act in haste.

If it gets to the village and dries up the villagers' fields, they won't be able to survive the winter!



The grass has spread all over the mountain. It's now getting close to the village.

We tried all sorts of ways to exterminate it, but we never found an effective method.



And there was no way to stop it!



I'm just saying that if you're going to risk lives, you should be risking your own.



Are you closing your eyes to that?

You're looking to sacrifice a great deal.



You don't know what effect it will have.

Also, you're dealing with an unknown monster.



That's terrible, but burning the entire mountain is too big a price to pay.



But the people of the village are scared, and you can't get through to them.

Reasoning is worthless if you can't convince.

That's a fair point.



No matter how long it takes.

We have to gather the people together somehow and pull every stalk of grass out!

They cut
down that huge
camphor tree.

Rah!

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

WIND

...your
picking
won't
solve
anything.

I can
understand
your
frustration at
not realizing
sooner that it
was a mistake,
but...

You're
scared too,
right?

There
aren't any
cherry
trees left.

Who do
you think
you are?

Hey!

Listen!

How much are
you going to
sacrifice just
to save your
little village?

Stop
cutting
those
down!

Please!
Find the
courage to
think this
through!

You can
have my
research notes.

If you
can add
to the re-
search, I'd
appreciate
it.

And to that
end...

...I will
use any
method at my
disposal.

It's only
natural...

...for
me to want
to protect
the villagers.

WIND

WIND

...leave
this place.

Now, please...



It was also man's knowledge that allowed him to make use of fire.



That isn't what I'm talking about!

Stop thinking at surface level!



And you're saying with that knowledge man should be tyrant over everything else!



You're that outsider muskiki, aren't you?

Well, we've already got an outsider-muskiki right here!



But this is a time when my family and I are in danger of dying!

It isn't easy for us to ravage the mountain this way!



You're just scared out of your wits, attacking everything to rid yourselves of the threat.

What did you say, you...



To an outsider's eye, you're acting like a pack of scared monkeys.

What would an outsider know that she doesn't?



Didn't I already ask you to leave?

.....
Everyone.



Please be calm and listen to me.



You're just making trouble!

Come with us!



It was for that very reason...

...that man learned to harness fire, wasn't it?



If you're not monkeys, then show that you can conquer your fears!



I can't
do it.



The only
one

who can
stop you
is you.



I'm
not...

...that it
really eats
her up that
burning is
the only
answer she
could find.



Oh...

I went a
little far
in what I
said.

Maybe...



He really
did her
research.

Yep.



They've
found
some of
that
grove.

...on
the edge
of the
village.



We have
to hurry
the
burn.

We'll set
the fires
as early as
tonight.



BURN
BURN



Oh, no!



Let's
fight
the
fires.



...means
that they
shouldn't
use fire!



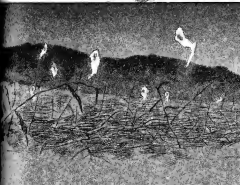
I can't shake
this bad
premonition...

The fact
that it was
inside a
lava rock...

The fact
that it was
inside a
lava rock...











Thank if I
as a thank
you for your
research
work.

And don't
overdo it
on your
own.



Too bad
for you
it isn't a
new type
of mushi.

...But
Hidane
can be
dealt
with.

I read
about it
some-
where.

But now
you've
discovered
its larval
form, so this
must be a
great day.

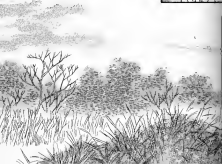


That
grass...

...is the
larval
form of
Hidane,
huh?



Don't
take this
out on
me.



If you feel
you need a
hand, write
a letter on
this paper.

I'll do
my best
to help.



Kagebi
are
pretty
tough to
stamp
out.

And you're
the only
one who
can help
this village,
right?









I've let the people of the village know that I don't have much longer to live.

And I've begun to spit out poison.



Before it takes over my body...

...I've gone outside the village to find a place to die.

You could call it justice.

The Hidenz has planted its seed in my bowels.

In exchange, I'm coughing up graves.



What do you do?



I can handle that on my own.

... No...



When we burned the mountain...
...I happened to swallow a Kagebi.



It's been slowly sucking out my heart.

Human bodies are a container of sorts, after all.



But that's stopped.

My body has been getting colder and colder.



...go someplace where I can be alone.



...can make sure that this mistake is never repeated.

I'm sure that you...



I'd like...to entrust the village to you.

And so...



.....
I don't know.

You think that'll cure Nohagi?

You want to catch a Kageki?



If I were in your position...

...I might have said the very same thing.



.....
I re-fuse.



Many



Fourth one!!



What... is this supposed to mean?



Since then...

I've been thinking about it a lot!



.....



I'd like to...

...try something out.



This is a fight that you all began.

I can't agree to anything other than you finishing it yourself!

You're going to have to see it through.







Is it because it's gotten warmer?



So don't let your guard down...

But there may be some hiding. You never know.



...the girl...

...enslaved to Ilav.

Say...

We hardly see any Kagiki anymore these days.



!!



Little by little...

After that...

...and be sure.

Take your time and get well.



And as the village was being protected from the invaders...

...the grass was recovered.

People's smiles were buried.





And...

It will
ruined
itself.



...
If flew off
toward the
valley.

It may
be
search-
ing...

...for a
place
that is
even a
little bit
cooler.



...very
qui-
etly...

...for
winter
to come
again.

...and
wait...



The Snake of Dawn



As long as she doesn't forget who you are when you get home.

Heh. I'd almost be happy if she did.



That is bad!

But these days, she's forgetting everything. It's gotten really bad.

Just a little while back, she left our kids in the market-place.



Heh...P

She sleeps fine. Scores pretty good too.



Does your wife...

...have trouble getting to sleep at night?



No it isn't!

Oh, that's okay, then.

She's so loud, I can't sleep!



Yeah, it sure is.

It's so peaceful...



But...

...if it were this nice every day...

...man-kind would be of no use anymore.



Like that saying, "In spring, people oversleep without knowing..." something or other.



...sleeps all of the time. She hardly wakes up enough to make breakfast.

Lately, my wife...



I'm home!



You've seen people...

...that are like that?



Thanks a lot.



I have some medicine for snoring.

You really think it'll work?



There's some weird creature...



Ash!

Save me, Kaji!

Mother?



"Weird?"



And about not getting to sleep at night.

Are those symptoms of something bad?



The medicine for snoring?

Heh?



Um...

About what you were just saying...



No... About forgetting things.



No, please...



But since sometime around spring of last year...















If that were the case, she'd have forgotten about her husband already.



Even when she tries to sleep, she can't.



...set a while ago, but she doesn't look like she plans to sleep, huh?



If she were forgetting those things she encounters least in her daily life...



her sister
childhood friends
teacher,
rainbow,
snow
jasper, omochi
watermelon,
pink-go nuts,
snails,
avocados, sea
cucumbers

But I can't see any but the most vague trends.



What are you doing?



Are there any links between the family members she's forgotten?

That's too simple.



Say...



Ah... All of them live across the river.

We don't even see them at the marketplace.

Sure things should exist...

...to send
on...

...into
the deep,
deep
pools of
sleep.



If that kind
of overlap...

...is her
regular
state.

When
things

So she's
like that
the whole
night,
working
at the
loom.

She
says
that she
works
at the
loom...
...so that
she never
forgets
Dad.



I
see...

I'd like it
if she'd
at least
sleep.

Then
she'd be
less worry
to the
one she's
waiting
for.

The
scent of
flowers.

The sound
of a loom.

Hint?







...they can
hide deep in
the brain,
and there's
no way of
getting them out.

But...
...if they
get inside
the body...

...there were weak
creatures
that wished
to sunlight
for very long.

Original...



!!



We only
know of one
weak point
for the
Kagedams,
and that's
the sun.

And we
can't get
sunlight
into a
person's
head.



Then...

...you're
saying
there's no
cure...?



In our
yard...

In the
shadow of
the cherry
tree...
is it mean
there?



Prob-
ably.

And it
slowly
starts to
forget things.



Once it
does, the
host hardly
ever sleeps
afterward.

It loves to
hide in the
shadows of
huge trees.



It waits
there for a
human or
animal to
rest there.

And when
its prey dozes
off, it enters
the ear and
goes into the
brain.

It takes
the form
of a half-
trans-
parent
curtain.



That
part goes
and enters
the tree's
shadow
again.

That's
how they
repro-
duce.

And while
the host
sleeps for a
few moments,
one part
leaves the
host.

Once it's
eaten a certain
amount of
memories, it
splits in two.



Those
are...

...the memo-
ries you go
over every
day. The
ones you
recall every
day.



On the
other
hand...

There
is one
thing.
There's
one group of memories
that the
Kagedama
never touch.



The
Kagedama
won't allow
its host to
die.

So it's my
theory that it
always leaves
intact those
basic memories
that keep the
host going day
by day.



And the
person
you meet
in your memo-
ries...

...your
husband.



The way
you
prepare
food.

The
way
you
work the
loom.

The
details
of your
son.



Uh... P



How-
ever...

...I think
there is
a way to
protect
those
things you
don't want
to forget.



"Dango"...

For ex-
ample...

The
Kage-
dama...

opens the
drawers and
takes what's
inside.

"Your rela-
tives who
live far
away"...

"Dresses"...

Think
of a
memo-
ry...
...as some-
thing that
you've
stored away
in a chest
of drawers.



It's like
there's no
need to let
it go.

It takes
them no
matter how
much you're
interested in
the memo-
ries.

Your
memories are
compartment-
alized into
countless
drawers.



Maybe
I will.

I guess...



Don't just
stay waiting
here at
home! Go
outside!

That's
right,
Mom!



Eh?



...and go
searching
for your
father.

I'll stop
wait-
ing...



...I was
afraid of
finding
out what
happened
to your
father.

But...

...thought
about
doing
some-
thing like
that.

Get this
battered
look off
your face!

I've al-
ways...



It's
nothing
more than
a theory.



Then...

...I'll never
forget
those
things?



...It may
go after
those
memories
too.

...if some-
day in the
future,
it's eaten
everything
else...

Res...



I'll
do my
best.

I under-
stand.



...is to
hold as
many mem-
ories as
you possi-
bly can.

Go...

...my best
suggestion
for how to
deal with
it...



...keep
recalling
the things
that you
don't want
to forget.

Over
and over...

...and
over and
over...

I don't know...

Yeah.

Have a safe trip!

...if that decision was the best for those two...

Take care!

No, thank you!



Your father... always told stories of a town west of here.

Um... How will you...?

I figure that's the first place I'll look.



But now...

...I've had enough of waiting.



Would you...

...mind coming with me...
...Kaji?

Okay.

Thanks for putting me up.

Right.
This will do here.



Yo.

You're back working here?



But I didn't find out what happened to them...

...until almost exactly a year later.





But she was out and bed-ridden.

Maybe she was re-haunted.

Mother!!

Mo-

ZZZ
うー



And she stayed like that.
Day after day, just sleeping.



Mm...

Is it morning...?



Mom!!

Why don't you say something to him?



Mom!



Mom?

Let's rest a little...

!!

Www

She didn't eat and didn't sleep.
And eventually...



On the road home...

...Mom just kept walking without saying a word.

Just
now...

Did
something...

...just
leave
here...?

Yes...

쥬쥬
ZUM
ZUM

쥬쥬
ZUM
ZUM

쥬쥬
ZUM
ZUM
쥬쥬
ZUM
ZUM





Maybe
it was
because we
did what
you said,
Ginko-san.

Every
day we
went
out...

...and saw
all sorts of
new things.

...she
remembered
how to cook,
and everything
about me.

But like
before...



Is she
still not
sleeping
much?

Of course,
by the next
day, she's
forgotten
most of them.

But she
always
seems so
happy.



So she
hasn't
changed.

152...



From
that
morning
on...

...my
mother...

Harry
up...

...and go
home.

But
aside
from
that...

...she had
lost every
single one
of her
memories.

...re-
mem-
bered
me...
...re-
mem-
bered
our
house...

...and
a lot of
the things
close
to us.



While she
was in a
depressed
state...

...the
mushi ate
the greater
part of her
memories.



I'm home!



Bonus Manga



Afterword

This is the fifth volume, which means it's already been five years since I started drawing *Huutshi!*. Which also means that Ginko, who I always pictured as being in his late twenties, has become younger than me. An occurrence that pains me. Ginko, at well, has seemed to age a little over the years of telling this story, but the flow of time for him is quite a bit slower, so I am very jealous. To tell the truth, at first, I never thought for a second that the series would go on as long as it has. But, somehow, it seems like it can continue on. If you can come with me from here on out, too, it will make me very happy.



<The Sea Palace>
The scene where the eggs rise from the cord is the motif for this story. It's one of the things I'd love to see in person.
<Eye's Fortune, Eye's Misfortune> I'm terribly afraid of losing my eyes, and that's probably why I draw it so much.



<The Coat That Holds a Mountain>
Back in the Edo Period, during the reigns of emperors Bunso and Beisei (1894-1895), they started making the inside of coats even showier than the outside. Pretty stylish, huh...
<Flames of the Fields> The thing we call fire is beautiful, frightening, transient, powerful. I love it so much. I never get sick of watching it. But it's so hard to draw...



The people who helped me out this time: Hiroshi Tsukano, Hani-chin, Hiro, Yaguchi-san, Yoko-chin, Yoko, and my grandmother. Thank you!



<The Snake of Dawn>
It was fun drawing the naturally absentminded mother. I feel sorry for her son, but...



By the way, one of the other places I wanted to set was the Hachikawa Range. There are numerous hot springs and various specimens of microscopic organisms. But the mountain was smaller than I imagined it to be.



Just a little bit.

I tried walking the ancient road of Kanato.

In April of this year (2004), for some reason I got the itch to try walking the ancient road of Kanato, so I went there. I say that, but I actually stayed in the area for only one night. There were other places I wanted to visit, so this time I went to see the *Itoshi Grand Shrine*.

This is the Grand Gate (*torii*) (Onze-saka) and the huge trees lining the roads. The sign says it takes about twenty minutes to climb, but it took me more than half an hour. There's a married couple hiking along easily on the JR poster, but in reality, you'll be covered in sweat. The towering cedars look like gods, and the view is wonderful. And as your body reaches its physical limits (*ha ha*), it's a place where you really might see things that aren't there.

Eventually through the trees you can see gorgeous *Itoshi Falls*, which is said to house gods. Its lively noises give you a sense of prayer even if you don't have a reason to pray. It wasn't any kind of religious fervor that brought me there, of course. I always thought that those three mountains would be a very hard climb, but after going, I find that I want to go back. It's a place where I have a great desire to see what's farther in. Eventually I'd like to be sure of my abilities and challenge the road again.



Master (danna), page 62

One of the Japanese words for master, *danna* can be used for the male owner or manager of a store, restaurant, or inn (a common word for a female owner or manager is *kamisan*). The English word "master" is also used for the owners of bars in Japan today.



Picking up customers (Kyaku-hiki), page 63

According to some Japanese historians, female employees of restaurants, bars, and inns along the great highways of Japan were pretty forceful when it came to drawing customers into their establishments. Some were even known to tackle potential customers and drag them bodily into the place of business. The practice of drawing in customers is still in force today (but not quite so forcefully) in the downtown entertainment districts of Japanese cities.

Kimono short coat (Haori), page 105

Haori, which we call the short coat in the text, is traditionally a man's garment meant to be worn over a kimono to keep the kimono clean and the wearer warm. After the end of the Edo period, women's *haori* became very popular as well.



Ubusuna, page 148

The first kanji in the *mushi* name *Ubusuna* means to cultivate or to give birth. The second kanji means earth.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural difference is used.

General notes on *mushi* and *mushishi*

The kanji for *mushi* is made of three kanji meaning bug (also called *mushi*) put together. The kanji can be used interchangeably for insect, but they can easily take on other meanings. In CLAMP's *xxxHolic*, the kanji was introduced as the name for a type of magical vermin.

Mushishi can be translated as "mushi master." Ginko is a man who made a study of *mushi* and seems to have learned to control some through his own senses and others through medicines, remedies, or just a knowledge of their nature. Ginko probably learned his craft from other older *mushishi* who wander Japan.

The highway, page 60

There are several major historical thoroughfares in Japan. The Tōkai road was probably the most famous, stretching from Osaka through Kyoto, past Mt. Fuji and on to Tokyo. Travel was pretty common along the road, since most Japanese wanted to take at least one pilgrimage in their life.

Biwa, page 60

A type of lute that originated reportedly in ancient Persia and worked its way along the Silk Road to end up in Japan. There are illustrations of the *biwa* in *The Tale of Genji* (eleventh century), but the most prevalent image of the *biwa* in Japan today is its use during the Edo period by Buddhist monks as they traveled the country telling stories. This was probably the model for Urushibara's creation of the character Amene, with his monklike round straw hat and storytelling on the street.



Dango, page 216

Dango, or skewered dumpling, is perhaps the most popular festival snack in Japan. It is usually made of rice flour dumplings (although there are plenty of other recipes) that have been treated with different types of sauce to give them various flavors. An, the sweet-bean sauce, is probably the most prevalent since it is so popular with the kids, but tastes and flavors abound. There are usually three on a skewer, which prompted the late 1990s smash-hit children's song "Dango San Kyoda" (The Three Dango Brothers).



Kagezen, page 221

This is a full meal prepared for someone who is not present as a prayer for their safe return.

Thank you for this food, page 221

One of the standard phrases of Japanese life is a word said before eating, "Itadakimasu!" Like the Christian tradition of grace, the word is usually said to give thanks for the meal. (Thanks to whom depends on the traditions in which the Japanese person is raised. In some cases it is to God or gods, and in other cases it is to the food itself which was sacrificed so the one eating can be nourished.)

Kagebi, page 185

The first kanji for Kagebi is kage, which means shadow. The second means fire. So the name for this phenomenon is something like a "shadowy fire."

Hidane, page 187

There is a real-world item called hidane in Japanese that refers to coal. The kanji are made up of the Japanese words for "fire" and "seed." (So it's easy to see why the mushi are also called "fire seeds.")



The cherry tree (Sakura), page 207

The cherry tree is perhaps Japan's most prominent symbol. As well as symbolizing Japan as a country, it is a potent symbol of spring. Every year in late March or early April the cherry trees blossom, creating cloudlike canopies of pinkish white. So merely by drawing a blooming cherry tree, the author lets his readers know the time of year.



In spring, people oversleep without knowing..., page 210

The actual saying is, Shōmin akatsuki wa obasens, which translated literally means "Spring people forget dawn." The actual meaning is that people tend to sleep late in spring, not realizing that dawn has arrived. But since akatsuki (dawn) is in the title of the chapter and a failure of memory is the theme, Urushibara-sensei had Ginko forget what it is that people in spring don't "know."

Omochi, page 236

A rice paste that can be found in many forms. There are omochi snacks with sweet-bean paste inside for a sweet snack, but it can also be found unsweetened in soups or as a side dish.



Kagedama, page 231

Like Kagebi above, the first kanji is one that means "shadow." The second kanji is the character meaning "soul."

Kumano old road, page 254

One of the old highways of Japan (see above note), but in a somewhat remote location at the southern point of Wakayama prefecture south of Osaka and Nara. The remoteness meant that the main people traveling the old road were pilgrims on the way to see the Nachi Grand Shrine that Yuki-sensei mentions.

Minakata Kumagusu Museum, page 254

Also in Wakayama prefecture, but toward its westernmost point, is the Minakata Kumagusu Museum, listed as one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Kumagusu Minakata (1867–1941) was one of Japan's leading naturalists after the end of Japan's isolation. He published articles in the British journal *Nature* and was known as a walking encyclopedia, especially in his favorite area of study, slime molds.

We're please to present you with a preview of volume 6. Please check our website (www.delreymongo.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!